Indo-E.C. Talks

3180. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have any talks with the European Commission (E.C.);

(b) whether E.C. has also expressed its keenness for having a dialogue with the Government; and

(c) if so, the subjects listed for inclusion in the agenda for Indo-EC talks

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The India-EC Talks are scheduled to be held in Brussels on 16th and 17th Dec., 96 on the occasion of the next meeting of the India-EC Working Group of Trade and Economic Cooperation. Matters of bilateral trade, commercial and economic interest are to be discussed in the meeting.

[Translation]

Closure of Industries in U.P.

3181. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to close down the big industrial units in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of industries proposed to be closed down by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide employment to the persons rendered unemployed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) BIFR have recommended for winding up of the Tannery and Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd. and have referred the matter to High Court, Allahabad.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Cotton Advisory Board

3182. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from the cotton producing States for releasing further cotton quota for export in order to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers;

(b) whether meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board was held in November, 1996 to review the supply and demand position; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Requests for release of quota for export of cotton are received from the States from time to time.

Government have already released a quota of 6.15 lakh bales for export, in the 1996-97 Cotton Year. Quota released are made after taking into account all relevant factors, including assessments of cotton production, domestic demand and availability of surplus cotton.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

KVIC

3183. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more assistance to units of Khadi and Village Industries in Kerala;

(b) whether the KVIC propose to set up more projects in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). More assistance will be given to Kerala and other States/U.Ts. depending on the merits of the projects. This is a continuous process.

FERA Violations by Cigarette Companies

3184. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cigarette companies in the country who are allegedly indulging in the evasion of Excise duty, Customs duty and Income-tax etc, besides FERA violations;

(b) the action taken to expedite investigations in respect of these cigarette companies;

(c) whether these investigations have been followed with issuance of show cause notices and other follow up action; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Textile Mills

3185. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills lying closed as on date State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to take over the management of the closed textile mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?